

CLAIMS:

1. A pad for therapeutic correction of thoracic spine positioning in a patient, said pad having a length, a width and a thickness,

5 said length of said pad being substantially the length of an upper thoracic spine of said patient;

said width of said pad being substantially the width of vertebrae of the upper thoracic spine of said patient; and

10 said thickness of said pad being sufficient to induce a mild hyper-extension of the upper thoracic spine of the patient when the pad is positioned between the upper thoracic spine of the patient and a substantially hard surface, and the upper thoracic spine of the patient is
15 pressed against said pad;

2. The pad according to claim 1 wherein an upper surface of the pad which lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use, has a side-view profile shaped to accommodate a contour of the patient's spine as it evolves from a top
20 end of the upper thoracic spine toward a bottom end of the upper thoracic spine.

3. The pad according to claim 2 wherein a top end and a bottom end of the pad are of substantially equal thickness, and the upper surface of the pad has an
25 asymmetrical V-shaped side-view profile that tapers downwardly from the top end to the bottom end at about 10 degrees and downwardly from a point near the bottom end toward the top end at about 40 degrees.

4. The pad according to claim 2 wherein the top end and the bottom end of the pad are of substantially equal thickness, and the upper surface of the pad has a symmetrical U-shaped side-view profile that tapers
5 downwardly from a point near the top end to a point from the top end where the tapering stops, at about 10 degrees, and downwardly from a point near the bottom end to a point from the bottom end where the tapering stops, at about 10 degrees, and between the point from the top end where the
10 tapering stops and a point from the bottom end where the tapering stops is a horizontal depression.

5. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising a longitudinal groove in an upper surface thereof which lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use, extending from a
15 top end of the pad to a bottom end of the pad.

6. The pad according to claim 1 wherein the pad has an internal cavity for receiving a device adapted to impart at least one of heat, cold, vibration and a magnetic field to the pad.

20 7. The pad according to claim 1 wherein the pad tapers in width from a lower surface which lies adjacent the substantially hard surface, to an upper surface which lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use.

8. The pad according to claim 1 wherein the pad is
25 formed of one of closed cell polyethylene foam, polystyrene and medical grade glycerin gel.

9. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising a heating means for heating the pad.

10. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising a
30 cooling means for cooling the pad.

11. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising a means for providing a vibratory motion to the pad.

12. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising a magnetic insert for imparting a magnetic field to the pad.

5 13. The pad according to claim 1 wherein the pad is affixed to a board.

14. The pad according to claim 1 further comprising attachment means for attaching the pad to the substantially hard surface.

10 15. The pad according to claim 14 wherein the attachment means are straps attached to the pad.

16. The pad according to claim 14 wherein the attachment means is an adhesive on a lower surface of the pad which lies adjacent the substantially hard surface.

15 17. The pad according to claim 14 wherein the attachment means is a mechanical fastener on the lower surface of the pad which lies adjacent the substantially hard surface.

18. The pad according to claim 17 wherein the
20 mechanical fastener is Velcro®.

19. A device for therapeutic correction of thoracic spine positioning in a patient, said device having an upper thoracic portion, said upper thoracic portion of the device having a length, a width and a thickness,

25 said length of said upper thoracic portion of the device being substantially the length of an upper thoracic spine of said patient;

said width of said upper thoracic portion of the device being substantially the width of vertebrae of the upper thoracic spine of said patient; and

said thickness of said upper thoracic portion of the device being sufficient to induce a mild hyper-extension of the upper thoracic spine of the patient when the upper thoracic portion of the device is positioned between the upper thoracic spine of the patient and a substantially hard surface, and the upper thoracic spine of the patient is pressed against said upper thoracic portion of the device.

20. The device according to claim 19 wherein an upper surface of the upper thoracic portion of the device, which lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use, has a side-view profile shaped to accommodate a contour of the patient's spine as it evolves from a top end of the upper thoracic spine toward a bottom end of the upper thoracic spine.

21. The device according to claim 19 further comprising a longitudinal groove in an upper surface of the upper thoracic portion, which lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use, extending from a top end of the device to a bottom end of the device.

22. The device according to claim 19 wherein the upper thoracic portion of the device has an internal cavity for receiving a device adapted to impart at least one of heat, cold, vibration and a magnetic field to the upper thoracic portion of the device.